



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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April 17, 2006

The Honorable Ken Bennett
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Senate Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1325: public funds; abortion; prohibition

Dear President Bennett:

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1325, which would have prohibited any state or local government from using public funds to provide health coverage that includes most abortions.

By preempting all political subdivisions in this single area of health care coverage, the legislature unwisely and inappropriately prevents local governments from making their own decisions about the health care coverage they offer and for which most employees pay their own premiums. In addition, this bill's narrow definition of the exception under which abortions could be paid for under a public health care plan is far too restrictive and appears to be in violation of the Arizona Supreme Court's holding in *Simat Corp. v. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System*, 203 Ariz. 454, 460, 56 P.3d 28, 34 (2002) ("given the right of choice announced in *Roe*, once the state allows abortion funding if necessary to save the mother's life [it cannot justify refusing such funding] to protect the health of a seriously ill woman"). Indeed, by allowing funding for such abortions only if necessary to save a woman's life or avert "substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function," the bill prohibits funding for other medically necessary abortions. As such, Senate Bill 1325 constitutes yet another effort by the politicians in this legislature to impose their own ideology on private and difficult medical decisions.

For these and other reasons, Senate Bill 1325 should not become law.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janet Napolitano
Governor


JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Karen Johnson

Passed the House April 6, 20 06,

by the following vote: 33 Ayes,

24 Nays, 3 Not Voting


Speaker of the House

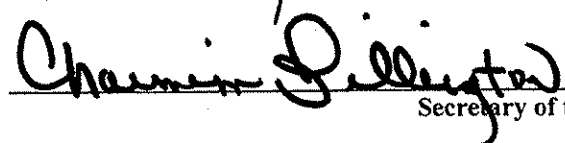

Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate March 2, 20 06,

by the following vote: 17 Ayes,

12 Nays, 1 Not Voting


President of the Senate


Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill was received by the Governor this

14th day of April, 2006

at 2:06 o'clock p. M.


Secretary to the Governor

Approved this _____ day of

_____, 20____,

at **VETO** o'clock _____ M.

Governor of Arizona

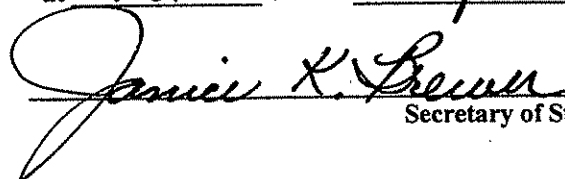
S.B. 1325

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State

this 17 day of April, 2006,

at 4:51 o'clock p. M.


Secretary of State